(b) In order to protect the interest of the oilseed grower, a two fold approach has been adopted. Firstly the import duties have been revised upwards in respect of edible oils. Secondly in order to arrest declining prices and to stabilize them, National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED) has undertaken large scale procurement of certain oilseeds. For instance during 2000-2001 season NAFED as on 31.07.2001 has procured 427 tonnes of Groundnut pods, 3.3 lakh tonnes of Mustard seeds, 3028 tonnes of safflower and 2.3 lakh tonnes of copra respectively.

(c) The tariffs levels have been bound for primary agricultural products, processed agricultural products and edible oils with few exception, at 100%, 150% and 300% respectively. There is thus considerable flexibility with the Government to protect the interest of oilseeds cultivators. Besides, in order to increase competitiveness steps have been taken to reduce cost of production and increase yields of oilseeds and towards this end oilseed production programme on mission mode approach under Technology Mission on Oilseeds and Pulses is being implemented.

**Development of horticulture in Andhra Pradesh**

2738. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken so far or proposed to be taken for development of horticulture sector in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the Central funds released to the State for the purpose during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) the progress achieved by the sector during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (d) The Government implemented various Schemes with Central assistance for the development of horticulture sector in Andhra Pradesh. The Scheme-wise details of funds released to the State Government for the purpose during the last three years is given in the statement (*see* below).

(c) the State Government achieved the following progress in the horticulture sector during the said period of three years:

1396 ha were covered under area expansion of fruit crops.

1630 ha were brought under new cashew plantations.

518 ha were brought under coconut plantation, 863 ha were covered under different spices and 63 ha were brought under flowers.

1.09 lakh horticultural plants were distributed under the programme for establishing Nutritional Gardens.

About 20,000 ha were brought under drip irrigation.

230 demonstration plots for medicinal plants were laid.

**Statement**

*FUNDS releasd to Government of Andhra Pradesh for Horticulture Development*

(Rs. in lakh)

| Sl. No. | Name of Scheme | 1998-99 | 1999-2000 | 2000-01 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Development of Cashew | 83.61 | 133.29 | 2.50 |
| 2. | Development of Cocoa | — | 2.00 | 0.80 |
| 3. | Development of Commercial Floriculture | 47.40 | 18.20 | — |
| 4. | Integrated Development of Fruits | 80.00 | 112.98 | 33.72 |
| 5. | Development of Medicinal & Aromatic Plants | 7.50 | 4.75 | 0.28 |
| 6. | Development of Mushroom | — | 5.00 | 3.00 |
| 7. | Development of Root & Tuber Crops | 1.41 | 0.50 | — |
| 8. | Integrated Development of Spices | 120.00 | — | 38.35 |
| 9. | Integrated Development of Vegetables | — | 6.00 | — |
| 10. | Development of Horticulture through Plasticulture Interventions | 1410.75 | 1277.50 | 125.60 |
| 11. | Production & Distribution of TxD Coconut seedlings | 29.68 | — | — |
| 12. | Integrated Farming in Coconut Holdings | 45 | 4.84 | 15.82 |
| 13. | Establishment of Nutritional Gardens in Rural Areas | 10 | 8.08 | — |
| 14. | Macro Management in Agriculture | — | — | 439.22 |
| | TOTAL : | 1835.35 | 1573.14 | 659.29 |